Inter-Ministerial Meeting on Price and Supply of Essential Commodities

3351. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister convened an inter-ministerial meeting during this month to discuss the price and supply situation, particularly of essential commodities;

(b) if so, what is its outcome; and

(c) the follow-up action being taken to check the spurt in the open market prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Supreme Court's Orders on Fixation of Sugarcane Price

3352. SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHANDARI: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the Supreme Court, by an order dated the 17th January, 1994 has fixed the price of sugarcane at Rs. 740 per metric tonne for this season;

(b) if so, how many States have not yet implemented the Supreme Court's order; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to get the order implemented by all the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The order of the Supreme Court pertains to sugar factories in the State of Maharashtra and not to the Union of India or to any other State.

Subsidy on Foodgrains

3353. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that food subsidy for the year 1994 is likely to touch the figure of Rs. 600 crores;

(b) if so, what amount was spent on the purchase of foodgrains for public distribution during the year 1993-94, the break up of the amount on each of the foodgrains purchased separately;

(c) what was the amount Government got after selling these foodgrains through P.D.S., break-up of each foodgrain separately;

(d) what is the amount of total subsidy for the current year 1993-94; and

(e) when selling prices are higher than the purchase-prices, what are the reasons and hence subsidies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) and (d) While Food Subsidy for the year 1993-94 is estimated to be around Rs. 4,600 crores, a total provision of Rs. 5,700 crores has been made in the R. E. 1993-94 taking into account the arrears if subsidy payable to Food Corporation of India during the current year.

(b) Purchase of Foodgrains druing the current financial year is estimated to have cost Food Corporation of India Rs. 11,771 crores, comprising Rs. 4,869 crores for wheat and Rs. 6,902 crores for rice.

(c) Sales realisation of wheat and rice issued through P.D.S. and other approved schemes during the current year 1993-94 are estimated to be Rs. 2,677 crores and Rs. 4,743 crores respectively.

(e) Food Subsidy is released/paid to Food Corporation of India for reimbursement of (i) the difference between economic cost of foodgrains (comprising procurement price, procurement incidentals and distribution incidentals) and their issue prices and not the difference between purchase price and sale price, (ii) carrying cost of buffer stocks.